

Message Text

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20

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SCS-03 SCA-01 SY-05 OPR-02 /082 W

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R 161600Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1357

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, TS

SUBJECT: DEMONSTRATIONS SUBDUED

REF: TUNIS 0273

1. MINISTRY OF INTERIOR SOURCES HAVE INFORMED EMBASSY THAT SITUATION AT UNIVERSITY IS WELL IN HAND. POLICE CONTINUE TO BOTTLE STUDENTS UP IN CLASS BUILDINGS AND DORMITORIES DURING SCHOOL HOURS TO PREVENT STUDENT MEETINGS AND DISRODERS FROM STARTING ALTHOUGH THERE WERE MINOR STUDENT/POLICE CONFRONTATIONS JANUARY 15 ON CAMPUS. POLICE ARE SYSTEMATICALLY SEEKING AND ARRESTING LEADERS OF JANUARY 14 DEMONSTRATIONS.

2. SAME SOURCE ASSERTS THAT ALTHOUGH DAILY PAPERS HERE CONTINUE TO SPEAK OF A POLITICALLY MISGUIDED MINORITY AS BEING BEHIND THE UNIVERSITY'S TROUBLES, POLICE ARE CONVINCED THAT THIS YEAR'S DEMONSTRATIONS ARE NOT REPEAT NOT THE RESULT OF OUTSIDE AGITATIONS NOR IDEOLOGICALLY MOTIVATED. IN OTHER WORDS TROUBLE MAKERS ARE NOT REPEAT NOT THE

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MARXIST/LENINIST AGENTS OF OUTSIDE GROUPS WHO HAVE SO

OFTEN BEEN CONDEMNED IN GOT STATEMENTS ABOUT SUCH TROUBLES.
ACCORDING TO POLICE THEORY, ANTI-REGIME SLOGANS SHOUTED IN
COURSE OF DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE BEEN AFTERTHOUGHTS RATHER
THAN REFLECTIONS OF REVOLUTIONARY STUDENT THINKING.

3. NEVERTHELESS, GOT TAKES SLOGAN SHOUTING SERIOUSLY:
OF 14 STUDENTS ARRESTED "RED-HANDED" DURING JANUARY 14
DEMONSTRATIONS, 12 WERE TRIED AND SENTENCED JANUARY 15
AND ALL RECEIVED SENTENCES TOTALING THREE YEARS AND EIGHT
MONTHS OF WHICH TWO YEARS ARE FOR "SLANDERING THE CHIEF
OF STATE, MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL INSTITU-
TIONS."
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